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Report Title

Final Report: Cloud Security: Issues and Research Directions

ABSTRACT

We organized an invitational workshop at George Mason University on Cloud Security: Issues and Research Directions. The goals of the workshops were to establish the state of the art in the cloud security area and to set the course for future research. A multidisciplinary group of leading researchers in system and network security areas met to elaborate on the fundamental challenges facing the research community and identify promising solutions paths.

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Inventions (DD882)

Scientific Progress

We organized an invitational workshop at George Mason University on Cloud Security: Issues and Research Directions. The goals of the workshops were to establish the state of the art in the cloud security area and to set the course for future research. A multidisciplinary group of leading researchers in system and network security areas met to elaborate on the fundamental challenges facing the research community and identify promising solutions paths.

Technology Transfer

We organized an invitational workshop at George Mason University on Cloud Security: Issues and Research Directions. The goals of the workshops were to establish the state of the art in the cloud security area and to set the course for future research. A multidisciplinary group of leading researchers in system and network security areas met to elaborate on the fundamental challenges facing the research community and identify promising solutions paths.

The results of the workshop were captured in the following edited book:

Sushil Jajodia, Krishna Kant, Pierangela Samarati, Anoop Singhal, Vipin Swarup, Cliff Wang, eds., Secure Cloud Computing, ISBN 978-1-4614-9278-8, Springer, Berlin, 2014, 343 pages..

The chapters in this book present a range of cloud computing security challenges and promising solution paths. Topics include practical considerations of cloud computing security as well as security issues related to the cloud infrastructure, data protection, computation deployment, and security state monitoring.

The book begins with two chapters focused on practical considerations of cloud computing. In Chapter 1, Chandramouli, lorga, and Chokani describe the evolution of cloud computing and the current state of practice, followed by the challenges of cryptographic key management in the cloud. In Chapter 2, Chen and Sion present a dollar cost model of cloud computing and explore the economic viability of cloud computing with and without security mechanisms involving cryptographic mechanisms.

The next two chapters address security issues of the cloud infrastructure. In Chapter 3, Szefer and Lee describe a hardware-enhanced security architecture that protects the confidentiality and integrity of a virtual machine's memory from an untrusted or malicious hypervisor. In Chapter 4, Tsugawa et al. discuss the security issues introduced when Software-Defined Networking (SDN) is deployed within and across clouds.

Chapters 5-9 are focused on the protection of data stored in the cloud. In Chapter 5, Wang et al. present two storage isolation schemes that enable cloud users with high security requirements to verify that their disk storage is isolated from some or all other users, without any cooperation from cloud service providers. In Chapter 6, De Capitani di Vimercati, Foresti, and Samarati describe emerging approaches for protecting data stored externally and for enforcing fine-grained and selective accesses on them, and illustrate how the combination of these approaches can introduce new privacy risks. In Chapter 7, Le, Kant, and Jajodia explore data access challenges in collaborative enterprise computing environments where multiple parties formulate their own authorization rules, and discuss the problems of rule consistency, enforcement, and dynamic updates. In Chapter 8, Smith et al. address key challenges to the practical realization of a system that supports query execution over remote encrypted data without exposing decryption keys or plaintext at the server. In Chapter 9, Sun et al. provide an overview of secure search techniques over encrypted data, and then elaborate on a scheme that can achieve privacy-preserving multi-keyword text search.

The next three chapters focus on the secure deployment of computations to the cloud. In Chapter 10, Oktay et al. present a risk-based approach for workload partitioning in hybrid clouds that selectively outsources data and computation based on their level of sensitivity. The paper also describes a vulnerability assessment framework for cloud computing environments. In Chapter 11, Albanese et al. present a solution for deploying a mission in the cloud while minimizing the mission's exposure to known vulnerabilities, and a cost-effective approach to harden the computational resources selected to support the mission. In Chapter 12, Kontaxis et al. describe a system that generates computational decoys to introduce uncertainty and deceive adversaries as to which data and computation is legitimate.

The last section of the book addresses issues related to security monitoring and system resilience. In Chapter 13, Zhou presents a secure, provenance-based capability that captures dependencies between system states, tracks state changes over time, and that answers attribution questions about the existence, or change, of a system's state at a given time. In Chapter 14, Wu et al. present a monitoring capability for multicore architectures that runs monitoring threads concurrently with user or kernel code to constantly check for security violations. Finally, in Chapter 15, Hasan Cam describes how to manage the risk and resilience of cyber-physical systems by employing controllability and observability techniques for linear and non-linear systems.

Table of contents of the book is given below.

Secure Cloud Computing Table of Content

- 1. Cryptographic Key Management Issues and Challenges in Cloud Services Ramaswamy Chandramouli, Michaela Iorga, Santosh Chokhani
- Costs and Security in Clouds Yao Chen and Radu Sion

- 3. Hardware-enhanced Security for Cloud Computing Jakub Szefer and Ruby B. Lee
- 4. Cloud Computing Security: What Changes with Software-Defined Networking? Maur´ıcio Tsugawa, Andr´ea Matsunaga, and Jos´e A. B. Fortes
- 5. Proof of Isolation for Cloud Storage Zhan Wang, Kun Sun, Sushil Jajodia, and Jiwu Jing
- 6. Selective and Fine-Grained Access to Data in the Cloud Sabrina De Capitani di Vimercati, Sara Foresti, and Pierangela Samarati
- 7. Enabling Collaborative Data Authorization Between Enterprise Clouds Meixing Le, Krishna Kant, Sushil Jajodia
- 8. Making Query Execution Over Encrypted Data Practical Ken Smith, M. David Allen, Hongying Lan, and Andrew Sillers
- 9. Privacy-preserving Keyword Search over Encrypted Data in Cloud Computing Wenhai Sun, Wenjing Lou, Y. Thomas Hou, and Hui Li
- 10. Towards Data Confidentiality and a Vulnerability Analysis Framework for Cloud Computing Kerim Y. Oktay, Mahadevan Gomathisankaran, Murat Kantarcioglu, Sharad Mehrotra and Anoop Singhal
- 11. Secure Mission-Centric Operations in Cloud Computing Massimiliano Albanese, Sushil Jajodia, Ravi Jhawar, Vincenzo Piuri
- 12. Computational Decoys for Cloud Security Georgios Kontaxis, Michalis Polychronakis, and Angelos D. Keromytis
- 13. Towards a Data-centric Approach to Attribution in the Cloud Wenchao Zhou
- 14. Software Cruising: A New Technology for Building Concurrent Software Monitor Dinghao Wu, Peng Liu, Qiang Zeng, and Donghai Tian
- 15. Controllability and Observability of Risk and Resilience in Cyber-Physical Cloud Systems Hasan Cam

Technology Transfer